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Domestic Violence
Abuser Services Fund

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A new way
to hold abusers accountable
and save tax dollars

DHS
Illinois Department of Human Services

Courts are now able to fine abusers an extra $20 for violating Orders of Protection. This fine is in addition to any other fines, costs or penalties involved in each case.

Eighty percent of the money collected by these fines will fund abuser service programs in the jurisdiction where the fine was levied.

After the court assesses the fine, the Circuit Clerk collects it and keeps 10 percent. The rest goes to the Domestic Violence Abuser Services Fund, which uses 10 percent for general training, development and assessment of abuser programs. The remaining 80 percent is allocated to qualified batterer programs in the same jurisdiction from which the fine was collected.

The more fines collected in your area, the more funds will be available for abuser programs in your district.

The Domestic Abuser Services Fund was established by Public Act 90-241 in response to the growing realization of the need to provide effective services to domestic abusers. The staff of one Illinois women's shelter saw this need firsthand when they provided services to the fourth victim of the same batterer. The shelter staff successfully set the woman on the road to safety, just as they had with the prior three. However, they also realized that, without intervention, the batterer would continue sending them clients for years to come.

Despite the clear need for abuser services, programs for abusers are still very poorly funded. This new fine will help to hold abusers accountable not only for the crime they have committed, but also for the funding of their programs. Because abuser programs often operate on shoestring budgets, even a small amount of funding has the potential to make a big difference.

The Illinois Department of Human Services will distribute the funds through grants to abuser programs that are in compliance with state protocols.

Abuser Fines At-A-Glance

The following three abuser penalties go directly to fund domestic violence services and can be imposed on an abuser in any combination:

The Domestic Abuser Services Fund Fine

Amount:	$20
Imposed for:	Violations of Orders of Protection
Requires:	Conviction or placement on supervision
Funds used for:	Abuser programs in the local district
Collected by:	Circuit Clerk (Circuit Clerk retains 10 percent)
Established by:	Public Act 90-0241

The Domestic Violence Shelter and Service Fund Fine

Amount:	$100
Imposed for:	Almost any crime committed against a family or household member, including domestic battery and violations of Orders of Protection
Requires:	Plea of guilty, no contest or conviction
Funds used for:	Domestic violence shelters and services. (If the crime includes sexual assault, half of the funds go to the Sexual Assault Services Fund.)
Collected by:	Circuit Clerk
Established by:	Public Act 87-0791

The Domestic Violence Shelter and Service Fund Fine for Domestic Battery

Amount:	$10
Imposed for:	Domestic battery
Requires:	Plea of guilty, stipulation of facts or conviction
Funds used for:	Domestic violence shelters and services.
Collected by:	Circuit Clerk (Circuit Clerk retains 10 percent)
Established by:	Public Act 87-0480

Again, these fines may be used in combination with one another and in addition to any other penalties imposed.

For more information and to locate the Department of Human Services office nearest you, call:

1-800-843-6154

1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

Illinois Department of Human Services

Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, sexual orientation, disability, ethnic origin or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.

DHS 4260 (N-5-99) Domestic Violence Brochure 3,000 copies
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